

WHAT BRINGS THE OWLS HERE?

HORNED OWL SCARES SPARROWS
OUT OF BATTERY PARK.One Seared a Woman to Death the Other
Day—Do They Come to See Clerk
Fuller, Who Visits Them and Once
Saw an Owl Disappear in the Air?Clerk William M. Fuller of the Court of
Special Sessions is going to set on foot an
inquiry into the reason why owls have
taken such a tremendous liking to the lower
end of Manhattan Island. A new owl ap-
peared yesterday in Battery Park. This
is the third owl to be discovered below
Canal street within two weeks.Mr. Fuller loves owls. He loves them
because they are so very wise, and because
they never contradict or, so far as he knows,
raise their eyebrows. He has spent days
and weeks studying owls and enjoying
their society in the untracked wildernesses
of Canada, which he frequents in his vaca-
tions. Mr. Fuller is a modest man. It has
never occurred to him, apparently, that
the owls come to downtown New York
because they reciprocate his affection for
their kind—that they come to visit him.Yesterday's owl appeared in the trees of
Battery Park early in the evening, and at
once gathered a large following of unoccu-
pied philosophers, who were resting on the
park benches. It was a horned owl, about
eighteen inches in height, brown, with a
dirty white waistcoat, a very round face
and two most perky feather horns. When
the crowd below got too large or too noisy,
the owl flapped its noiseless wings and
made for another tree. It perched over
the elevated tracks and stared down at the
trains superciliously. It went to the lower
end of the park and surveyed the subway
workings. Nothing worried it much, ap-
parently, though there is a general belief
that owls like to sleep in the daytime.A park keeper followed the owl around
from tree to tree yesterday, principally
to keep the eager watchers from getting on
the grass in their anxiety to see as much
of the stranger as possible. The keeper
discouraged learnedly to the effect that the
owl had undoubtedly come over from
Jersey to hunt what rats along the North
River front. He called attention to the ab-
sence of sparrows from that part of the
park in which the owl was. His remarks
were interesting but not scientific. He
seemed to be more anxious to hold the
attention of his audience than to set forth
essential and interesting facts. So a St. X
reporter, who knew much of the owl
lover, went up to the Criminal Courts
Building to get some really valuable in-
formation.It was Mr. Fuller, it will be remembered,
who discovered on the cornice of a build-
ing near the court house the first of the
recent owl visitors, which was captured by
firemen, who went up after it with a ladder.
Mr. Fuller said at that time that he was
horrified by the nonchalance with which
the firemen approached the owl, which has
talons like an eagle and a grip of unbe-
lievable obstinacy and ferocity. A day
or two later another horned owl was seen
in a window of a room downtown and scared
a sick woman to death.When Mr. Fuller heard the description
of the Battery Park owl he said at once that
it must be a horned owl.There are three kinds of owls around
here, he said. There is the little screech
owl. Then there is the barn owl, about
as big as a half grown chicken and again
there is the horned owl, the *Bubo* vir-
ginianus, which is found plentifully all
the wildernesses of this continent and in
many more or less thickly inhabited dis-
tricts. The Orange Mountains are full of
owls. There are many owls at Montauk.
Do not believe that the owls which have
come here are stragglers of a general mi-
gration. Owls never migrate. This owl
has crossed the river by mistake. When
he gets his bearings he will go away again.
But in the meantime there will be horrible
devastation in the park. Those owls are
powerful things. They can carry away
a kitten with ease. No wonder the sparrows
have left the park.Mr. Fuller assumed the faraway look
which comes over him when he is attacked
by memories of the Canadian wildernesses."I have grown very fond of owls," he
said. "I grew to take an interest in them
in the wild part of Canada in which I go
some times. It isn't until you get out in a
wilderness like that that you can appre-
ciate what perfect silence is. Often, when
another fellow and myself were two miles
and a quarter apart, across water, we
would talk to each other. Telephone?
No! Of course not. Just with our voices,
because it was so still. It was really weird.
First I would shout. And then after five
minutes or so (it takes sounds so long to
travel) his answer would come floating
across the water to me. It is in such soli-
tudes that the owl hunts most advan-
tageously."There was an owl who came to a dead
tree near our camp at about the same time
every evening. He would hoot like this.
[Mr. Fuller whistled like a toy whistle.]
The owl would come around a curve in a de-
part-ment store show window. I had a guide
with me of course, and he told me about it.
"For heaven's sake," I said, "is there a
railroad train around here?""Not within 400 miles," he said. Now I
knew that the noise was a locomotive
whistle. I was sure of it. Nothing else
ever made such a noise. It was terrific.
But afterward he convinced me that it was
an owl."You see, when an owl gets near an open
space and lets out a too like that every
living thing becomes hushed. Every par-
tridge, every squirrel, every mouse, every
rabbit, every running or flying bird, flattens
himself out on the ground or on his limb of a
tree or wherever he may be and makes
himself as inconspicuous as possible. The
owl's sense of hearing is more acute than
his sight. His ability to hear is beyond
our understanding.""By and by all the creatures which have
been scared begin to feel safe, and some
one, more nervous or more foolish than
the rest, makes a start to get away. At
the first rustle in the grass or among the
branches, "Scop-oo-oo!" comes the owl.
And then, and that's his dinner for
one night. I watched him hunt that way
too far after time.""But one night he got fooled. He went
too far. He caught a young raven. I
suppose he ate it. But early the next morn-
ing I was waked by a riot up in the trees
huddled out and found about a hundred
and fifty ravens getting after that poor owl.
They were flying around him in a perfect
storm. And along with the ravens there
were about a hundred bluejays, who were look-
ing for trouble on general principles. It
was a sin, the way they did up at that owl.
They'd dart in on him and jab him in the
back or in the side. The owl would
squawk and flinch and make a grab for
them with those big claws of his, and then
a raven or a bluejay would drop
out of the battle and flutter helpless to
the ground. Every little while one of them
would come flying out of the crowd and
wipe his bloody bill off on a limb. [Here
Mr. Fuller gave a lifelike and graphic
representation of a bluejay wiping its
bill off its own blood.] Every
little while two or three of the attacking
party would grab the same feather and
tear it out and then pull it pieces in the
air. When they got through, there wasn't
any owl at all. Nothing left to the ground.
He was obliterated in mid-air. He just
was reduced to nothing that was all. Yes,
it was really remarkable!"It was the most exciting fight I ever
saw. It took me completely off my feet.
But I missed that owl. He had been as
regular as a clock. After that I took to
going out into the woods by myself and
imitating the owl while just to have the
fun of hearing everything drop and keep
quiet and afterward start up and make a
riot for safety."Few creatures are more interesting than
owls. One need not go into Canada to
hear them, either. There are owls in
Central Park. I have heard them there.
When Mr. Fuller left the court building,
he was seen going toward the Battery.
But at last accounts neither he nor any one
else had possessed sufficiently winning
tones of owl talk to woo the bird from the
tree tops into captivity.

NEW S. I. FERRY PLAN.

Original Cost to City Some \$4,000,000
—Annual Deficit \$440,000 for a While.Dock Commissioner McDougall Hawkes
submitted yesterday to the Sinking Fund
Commission his report upon the proposal
for municipal operation of the Staten Island
ferry and designs for the additional ter-
minals at Stapleton and Port Richmond.The commissioner says the five fast
boats required will cost between \$905,000
and \$970,000 each. He recommends the
purchase of the Castleton and Robert Gar-
rett for use on the Stapleton and Port
Richmond routes. The cost of the ter-
minal and approaches at St. George will
be about \$1,250,000, the Stapleton terminal
will cost about \$200,000 and that at Port
Richmond \$275,000, making more than \$4,000,-
000 in all. The estimated cost of operation
is \$700,000 a year. Mr. Hawkes says:At the present rates charged by the existing
company, the receipts amount to \$435,500,
which would leave a net deficit on operation
for the first year of about \$300,000. From
this total deficit should be subtracted a
sum which may be obtained from the
St. George terminal through rental of priv-
ileges, etc., and through proper truckage
charges to the trolley and steam roads for the
construction work done at that terminal for
their use. At 3 1/2 per cent. interest on the
securities issued by the city to pay for the
ferry, this interest will amount to about
\$40,000, making the total estimated loss,
\$440,000.The receipts from the ferry will undoubt-
edly rise, and therefore the total net deficit
at the present rate of charges is continued
should be somewhat less. If the charges are
decreased, however, the loss would rise again
very materially, and this has been previously
shown to the Commissioners of the Sinking
Fund to be a very serious item to be taken
into consideration in regard to the loss. In
fact, the total loss on operation of this ferry
by the city unless all details of the present
general plan are competently carried out
and with a view to the most economical econ-
omy will be far in excess of the figures estimated
here.Mayor Low is anxious that the new plan
shall be decided upon before he vacates
his office. To do this will require the
unanimous vote of the Sinking Fund Com-
mission to authorize the beginning of con-
demnation proceedings for the land wanted
for approaches, and the probability is that
both Comptroller Grant and John T. McCall
will vote to lay the whole matter over for
the next administration to consider.

TAKES BRIDGE CO. CONTRACTS.

Post & McCord Composed of the Same
Men Under a New Title.Official announcement was made yester-
day by the American Bridge Company
that Vice-President William H. McCord
has resigned and with several officers asso-
ciated with him in the company will form
a new corporation, Post & McCord, to do
structural iron work on buildings.The American Bridge Company, as told
in THE SUN and other newspapers yester-
day, has gone out of the building construc-
tion business in this city and has turned
its existing contracts over to this new cor-
poration. The company had an agreement
with the old Parks Housekeepers' Union,
now the under dog in the labor troubles,
and all its contracts were tied up owing
to its obligations to this union. The new
corporation of bridge company officers
will join the Building Employers' Association
and work with the triumphant new union of
housekeepers. It is understood to be entirely
a friendly proceeding.Associated with Mr. McCord in the new
company are William C. Post, former con-
tracting manager for the American Bridge
Company of New York in the metropolitan
district, who will become vice-president
and treasurer; A. J. Post, former chief
engineer of the Brooklyn plant of the Em-
pire Bridge Company, who will be secretary
and chief engineer; John C. McCord, former
erection superintendent for the American
Bridge Company, American who will take
charge of the erection forces, and Robert
C. Post, former contracting agent for the
American Bridge Company of New York, who
will take the same job with the new com-
pany.Explanation of the official announcement
was refused by the company's secre-
tary.

STATE GETS HUGHES'S PROPERTY

Insane Man With No Relatives Died and
Left \$24,712.The estate of the late John Edward
Hughes, for many years a dealer in jewelry
on the installment plan, who had offices at
36 John street, and whose home was at
various times at the St. George Hotel,
the Hotel Margaret and in apartments on
the Heights, Brooklyn, will probably be
turned over to the State within a few days,
it being apparent to the administrator,
Lawyer James T. Williams, that there are
no relatives.Hughes was found wandering about the
streets of Brooklyn in November, 1902.
He was adjudged insane and committed
to the Long Island State Hospital, where
he died on Nov. 30. Lawyer Williams had
the safe in Hughes's office opened and
found bank books showing deposits to the
amount of \$12,390.34 and deeds to certain
real property. The total value of the prop-
erty was inventoried at \$24,712.86.

SLASHED HER WITH A RAZOR.

Jealous Lover Tries to Kill a New Haven
Girl and Then Commits Suicide.New HAVEN, Dec. 2.—Jealous over the
report that she was admired by another,
Thomas F. McCabe, a machinist, aged 22,
rushed upon Miss Hattie Gilmore, aged 22,
with a razor this afternoon in her room
on the fourth floor of 119 Crown street,
and slashed her. He cut her throat
nearly cut off an ear, gashed her hands
and arms as she fought to get the razor
from him and made cuts all over her face.
Then he drank carbolic acid and died in
five minutes. Miss Gilmore will probably
recover.

ART WORKERS' CHRISTMAS SALE.

With Plaster Models Among the Offerings
and Live Models to Sell 'Em.The Art Workers' Club for Women is
holding an interesting Christmas sale in
its clubroom, 11 E. 11th street, to-
morrow, December 4th, from 11 to 12 o'clock.
Some of the best known artists in the city
have contributed to the supplies. French
has given several miniature models, and
Partridge and Adams also have given
models in plaster. Miss Louise Heustis,
Rhoda Holmes Nichols, Constance Curtis and
Mrs. Arthur Sherwood also are among the
contributors. Some of the live models,
puffed up their most attractive
costumes, are acting as salesgirls. The serious
art work is under the direction of Miss
Helen Sanborn Sargent, who is first vice-
president of the club.

\$500 Reward Goes in Charity.

Alfred Krower, a member of the Maiden
lane jewelry firm of Albert Lorsch & Co.,
received recently a reward of \$500 from
the Treasury Department for his services
in the recovery of the \$8,000 worth of jewelry
stolen from the United States Public Stores.
The pearls, which were stolen by an em-
ployee, who was caught and sentenced
to Sing Sing for two years, were taken to
Lorsch & Co. for sale, and Mr. Krower
hung on to them. He has divided the
reward into five checks of \$100 each and
has turned one check to each of these insti-
tutions: The Police Pension Fund, the
Montefiore Home, the Presbyterian Hospital,
the United Charities and the Educational
Alliance.

More National Bank Notes Than Ever.

Outstanding national bank note circula-
tion is now at its high record. On Dec. 1
it was \$421,065,976, which is an increase
over Nov. 1 of \$1,496,236 and over Dec. 1,
1902, of \$27,145. The increase is based
on United States bonds entirely, circula-
tion based on lawful money showing a
decrease. National bank circulation has
been steadily mounting since 1900. The
low record of circulation since the civil
war is \$167,577,214 on July 1, 1891.

Loremo

now stands for the
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in 5 cent cigars.
When the cigar man
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Cremo"
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The Best"JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER
AS HE IS TO-DAY

Ida M. Tarbell's

STORY OF ROCKEFELLER

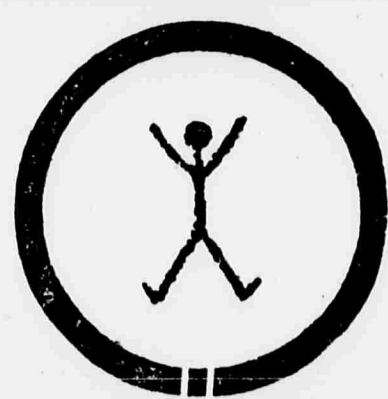
in her History of the Standard Oil Company
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articles of the greatest interest on subjects of burning
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MAGAZINE

MRS. OLIVER'S NAME FORGED?

EXPERT CARVALHO'S VIEWS OF
DEEDS TO MARY ALDERDICE.No Criminal Proceedings Are Expected,
Since the Only Allegation is Made
Against a Dead Man—Civil Suits to
Set Aside the Transfers to Be Begun.Assistant District Attorney Krotel sub-
mitted to David N. Carvalho the handwrit-
ing expert, yesterday, the documents pur-
porting to be deeds of property from Mrs.
Mary Oliver, Harlem's woman miser, to
Mary Elizabeth Alderdice, daughter of
the Rev. James Alderdice, the superannated
Methodist minister who had acted as Mrs.
Oliver's business agent.Mr. Carvalho had for comparison checks
signed by Mary Oliver and indorsed by
Alderdice. After his examination, Mr. Car-
valho said: "I am convinced that the
name Mary Oliver was forged and that the
forgery was done by James Alderdice."Assistant District Attorney Krotel said:
"I do not see any grounds for criminal
action. Mary Oliver is dead and so is
Alderdice. There is no evidence to show
that any living person knew of the for-
geries. In short, no evidence of con-
spiracy has been submitted."Civil suits to set aside the transfers will,
it is said, be instituted by the heirs of Mary
Oliver. Her only child is Mrs. Philip Camp-
bell, who is insane and in an asylum. Her
children are William N. Campbell of 2055
Eighty-fifth street, Bensonhurst, Mrs. R. M.
Jacobson of 354 East 127th street and Mrs.
C. B. Stevenson. The property transferred
to Miss Alderdice consists of two adjoining
houses in Second avenue, two parcels in
116th street just west of Second avenue, aplot at the corner of Second avenue and
118th street, a plot on Second avenue just
south of 118th street, the southwest corner
of 118th street and Second avenue and a
plot on 124th street west of First avenue.
The deeds were signed by Mrs. Oliver and
by Mrs. Oliver and by Alderdice and his
daughter.Alderdice's son, James S. Alderdice, is
a lawyer at 304 Broadway. He shares
offices with Samuel E. Fairfield, who is
acting as counsel for the Alderdices. He
made his statement yesterday.
In the nine years he lived in Harlem
the Rev. Mr. Alderdice and his daughter
took care of Mary Oliver. She was eighty-
six; he was eighty-two. In December,
1902, and March, July and October, 1903,
she deeded all of her realty holdings to
Mary Elizabeth Alderdice, who had become
to her as a daughter. Mrs. Oliver had
one child, Hattie A. Campbell, who has
three children. Mrs. Campbell is now in
an asylum and supported by the State.
A few years ago she obtained from her
mother \$50,000. Two years ago she went
to her mother for further funds, and be-
cause her mother was not forthcoming, be-
cause she was denied she assaulted her
mother and had to be expelled from the
house. She never returned. None of the
other persons present who saw and heard
Oliver except Mrs. Jacobson, who came
once a month."James S. Alderdice was Mary Oliver's
lawyer. The deeds she gave to Mary
Elizabeth Alderdice were all duly witnessed
and acknowledged, and there were several
other persons present who saw and heard
all that occurred. I shall not now reveal
their names."The deeds are all genuine, properly
executed and the considerations are good
and valuable. The deeds were not forgeries.
We have the papers in our hands to show
that we have the witnesses to prove. The
\$11,000 mortgages and other personal prop-
erty were given by Mary Oliver to James
Alderdice several days before her death,
as we have the witnesses to prove. The
house in which she died was then in the
possession of James Alderdice and was
Mary Elizabeth Alderdice, which fact
on Nov. 25 I made known to William Camp-

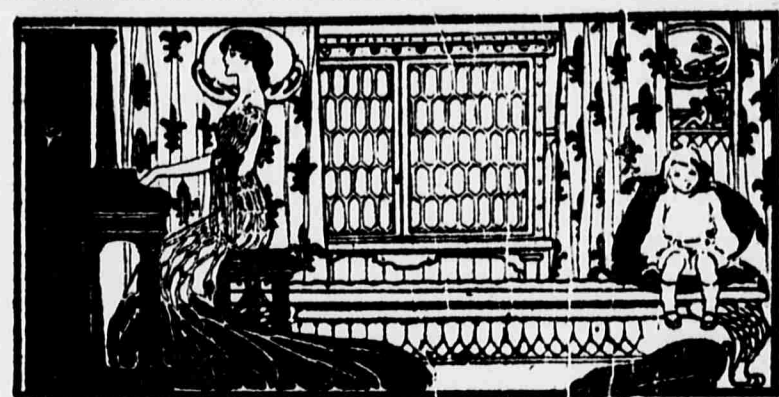
"I am good for 10 cents"

bell, who is the administrator of his grand-
mother's estate, and demanded the papers
found in it.James Alderdice was not a faith cure
believer, as some one has said, nor did he
unduly influence Mrs. Oliver. In fact, it
was he who summoned Dr. O'Brien when
Mrs. Oliver was stricken with her illness.
He was a Methodist minister, was born in
Ireland, went to Australia as a boy, and
there became converted. He became an
evangelist when he was 21 and returned to
Ireland, preaching and living near Dublin.
He came here about twenty-five years
ago, and preached in Minnesota, Kentucky,
Ohio and Maryland. His wife died about
a dozen years ago.The deeds of the property transferred
to Miss Alderdice were recorded a few days
ago.

Year in the Penitentiary for Ike Vail.

Ike Vail, the old time confidence man,
pleaded guilty in Special Sessions yester-
day to swapping a Confederate bill for \$15,
and was sent to the penitentiary for a year.
He is more than 70 years old now.

The Wanamaker Store



The Christmas Piano

Hundreds of New York homes are to welcome
new pianos this Christmas. To many it will be a
delightful surprise. To many more it will be the
fulfilment of long expectations, and perhaps some
thrifty financiering.A Piano is the supreme Christmas gift, because
it brings year-in-and-year-out pleasure to every
member of the family. But after having decided
that a piano is to be purchased, there is the great-
est question of all to decide:

What Piano Shall It Be?

If price could be eliminated from the question, almost every
answer would be "A Chickering, of course." And price is largely
eliminated from the decision, by reason of the easy WANAMAKER
method of payment. A full grand piano, for the truly artistic
musician, who has room for it. A Chickering Quarter Grand
for the home that has less space to spare for it—and this is the
ideal piano for the new home—it has been called "The Bride's
Piano," because of its matchless beauty as a bijou instrument.
But the snuggest little apartment in New York will have plenty
of room for the Chickering Upright, style E—the smallest full-
toned piano of the highest class that is made.But choice is not restricted. Here are the Mason & Hamlin
and Vose Pianos—superb instruments that will appeal to others,
purely as a matter of taste—for there cannot be found in either
a short-coming in tone, action or beauty of cases. All are pianos
to buy for a lifetime. All have the enduring qualities of thor-
ough artistic perfection. And prices are quite moderate—much
less than on any other pianos that may be compared with them
for a moment. And all are sold on the easy payment plan, that
may be easier than you would expect.But one of the strongest features of the WANAMAKER Piano
Business is the unusual excellence of the pianos at still more
popular prices. The highest musical judgment was required in
knowing just where to draw the line of greatest economy, and
yet secure instruments of satisfying qualities of tone, action,
and architectural beauty of construction. We put the highest
musical skill on that subject for two years before achieving the
unchallenged position now held by WANAMAKER PIANOS.And today, after the Kurtzman and Merrill Pianos, we also
present theJ. C. Campbell Piano at \$190. and the
Frederick Doll Piano at \$185Pianos that differ little in actual cost, but appealing to
different tastes, and while both are of unquestioned excellence
at their prices, they give a choice that has been a great satis-
faction to our customers. And you can buy either piano for

\$10 Cash, and \$6 a Month

Thus, by very little outlay, having the piano for Christmas,
and paying for it in these easy monthly sums, after the holiday
expenses are a thing of the past.Those who have a piano, with no one to play it, will wel-
come the Christmas Day that brings an *Angelus* into the home,
to enable the whole family, from the little fellow of three years
to the grandfather, to play the piano perfectly. And yet, the
Angelus reserves a wonderful fund of powers of expression for the
use of those who can feel the music as they play it. The *Angelus*
may also be bought on the easy payment plan.But, if a piano purchase is to be made this Christmas
season, your own interest demands that you investigate the
WANAMAKER Pianos and prices, as well as the WANAMAKER
easy payment plan.Of course, you may select your piano now, and have de-
livery made later on.

Piano Store, Fifth floor.

A Whirlwind of
SHIRT-WAISTSThe sale of six thousand "Royal" Shirt-Waists
made lively times on our second floor yesterday. It was the
best offering that New York has seen in many a day, and so
great was the quantity that the news holds good again today.
And more—The "Royal" Wool Waists, over four thousand of which we
secured in the same transaction, arrived yesterday afternoon,
and are ready to-day—a splendid gathering of warm, Winter
waists. They are in eight different groups: made of French
flannel, granite cloths, Botany flannel, in solid colors, tailored
styles, handsomely plaited and stitched: some with fancy but-
tons. Waists that sell regularly at \$4.50 to \$6.00—

Today at \$2.50 Each

There are still more than a hundred styles of Cotton Waists
to choose from. Of mercerized vestings, madras, butchers' linen,
French plaques, ducks, white and colored linens, flaked madras
and dotted linens—and that means every sort that you want
for yourself, or for holiday giving.

\$1 and \$1.25 Waists at 50c

\$1.50 and \$1.75 Waists at 75c

\$2 to \$2.75 Waists at \$1

\$3.75 to \$6 Waists at \$2.25

All the waists are fresh, clean and new. The finer ones come
in boxes, ready for Christmas giving, if you wish.

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